

# T O R

## TOR ROCK Grenache

Judge Family Vineyards, Hommage Allan, 2007

**Blend:** 75% Grenache, 21% Syrah, 4% Marsanne

**Production:** 225 cases

**Release date:** April 2009

### Vintage

The “buzz” about this vintage came before it was over. One vintner friend, Lee Hudson, predicted it might be a “vintage of the century”. In September we had our first storm that dropped 58 inches. This significantly slowed down the harvest and we were in a waiting game. Would sugars and flavor maturity come together? Happily, after a very long growing season, with exceptional hang time, we harvested the Grenache and the Syrah on October 18th. The long hang time contributed to very mature round tannins, and flavors.

### Vineyard

The Judge Vineyard is located in the cool sub-appellation called Bennett Valley, which is in Sonoma County just south of Santa Rosa. This area receives some of the coolest breezes from the Pacific Ocean and retains its fog/marine layer longer than almost anywhere else in Northern California. This cool climate allows for extremely long hang times and a very different flavor profile than any other California Grenache you might have tried and tastes far more like a true Châteauneuf than anything else. This site provides fruit that emphasizes the cooler climate flavors of cracked black pepper/earth and smoke. Almost always our last pick of the year, Bennett Valley is an area which is just now gaining recognition for the extraordinary Rhone varietal wines that it is producing.

### Winemaking

This wine is 75% Grenache, which for us is a labor of love. The purity of the Grenache fruit and its subtle layers of flavors pull you in and never let you go. For our Grenache we use totally destemmed fruit with less new French Burgundy barrels than our other Rhone wines. Utilizing mostly manual punchdowns we seek to gently extract the classic flavors of clove, wet earth, boysenberry and spice. Both the Syrah (21%) and Grenache are fermented using their own wild/native yeasts and then transferred to barrel to complete fermentation and is then bottled both unfinned and unfiltered.

4% Marsanne from the Stagecoach Vineyard in the western mountain range of Napa Valley added mid-palate and a seductive black fruit high note to the nose. This wine is homage to Châteauneuf du Pape, and the Allans in my family; Scottish ancestors, my father, and son.

### Winemaker's Tasting Notes – Jeff Ames

Aromatically the 2007 Hommage Allan is turning more and more toward Châteauneuf as it evolves in bottle. It has beautiful earthy, soil driven aromas along with lite spice and a bit of dried lavender. On the palate it is medium weight with tremendous purity and focus. The predominant flavors are a mix of roasted meats, damp earth, blackberry and a little sweet smoke. Though certainly drinkable now, this wine shows all the signs of being one to tuck a few bottles away of and allow it to develop the more subtle/wonderful secondary flavors of age.



“...offers up beautiful notes of kirsch, licorice, lavender, pepper, spice and raspberries, lovely fruit, medium to full body, a silky texture, and a hedonistic, up-front appeal. Enjoy it over the next 4-5 years.”

Rated (90) by  
Robert Parker, Jr.  
“The Wine Advocate”